

# Plant Fact Sheet

## LOPSIDED INDIANGRASS

*Sorghastrum secundum* (Ell.)  
Nash  
Plant Symbol = SOSE5

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



Hitchcock, A.S. 1950  
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### Uses

All livestock readily eat lopsided Indiangrass during the growing season. It cures well on the stem and provides good dry forage during the winter.

### Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status, such as, state noxious status and wetland indicator values.

### Description

Grass Family (Poaceae). Lopsided Indiangrass is a warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height ranges from 3 to 6 feet. The leaf blade is flat; 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide and 12 to 24 inches long. The leaf sheath is rounded and the ligule has a membrane 1/4 to 1/2 inches long and pointed. The seedhead has a narrow golden brown one-sided panicle giving it the name lopsided Indiangrass.

### Management

On ranges in good condition, this grass contributes as much as 15 percent of total production. To increase it on ranges in poor and fair condition, complete growing-season grazing deferments every 2 to 3 years are required.

### Establishment

It is adapted to well-drained soils. It does not grow on poorly drained sites or on sites subject to standing water.

### Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

### Reference

Leithead, H.L., L.L. Yarlett, & T.N. Shiflett. 1976. 100 native forage grasses in 11 southern states. USDA SCS Agriculture Handbook No. 389, Washington, DC.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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